

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Applicants initially note the present response is submitted to place the application in condition for allowance based on the indication of allowable subject matter in the previous Office Action of March 19, 2003. More particularly, in that previous Office Action original Claims 3, 5, 9, 10, 14, 16, 20, and 21 were objected to as dependent upon rejected base claims, but were noted as allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of their base claims and any intervening claims. The present response is submitted to present subject matter corresponding to certain of those claims indicated as allowable.

More particularly, by the present response claim 1 is amended to correspond to original claim 9 rewritten in independent form, which subject matter was noted as allowable in the Office Action of March 19, 2003. Claims 2-8 and 11 are all dependent claims that depend on amended independent claim 1, and thus those claims are also believed to be allowable.

Independent claim 12 is amended by the present response to correspond to original claim 20 rewritten in independent form, which subject matter was also noted as allowable in the Office Action of March 19, 2003. Dependent claims 13-19 and 22 are all dependent claims that depend on amended independent claim 12, and thus are also believed to be allowable.


The present response also sets forth new independent claim 45 for examination, which corresponds to original claim 10 rewritten in independent form, and again such subject matter was noted as allowable in the Office Action of March 19, 2003. New dependent claims 46-52 depend from new independent claim 45, and thereby are also believed to be allowable.

New independent claim 54 corresponds to original dependent claim 21 rewritten in independent form, and again such subject matter was noted as allowable in the Office Action of March 19, 2003. New dependent claims 55-62 depend from new independent claim 54, and thus are also believed to be allowable.

In such ways, the present response only submits claims previously indicated as allowable in the outstanding Office Action. Therefore, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and it is hereby respectfully requested that this case be passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

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